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### **Keech named new Fairbanks/Delta area forester**

(Fairbanks, AK) – The Division of Forestry has named Paul Keech as the new Fairbanks/Delta area forester.

Keech previously worked as DOF's Northern Region resource forester and large project team leader. Keech has worked for DOF in some capacity for the past 25 years, including as a firefighter on the Tazlina Hotshots and Fairbanks Area initial attack crew, an initial attack fire dispatcher, an assistant fire management officer and a resource forester in the Fairbanks Area office.

In his new position as the Fairbanks/Delta area forester, Keech will oversee forest and wildfire management on 12.8 million acres of lands in the Tanana Valley State Forest. Keech said he hopes "to provide the same level of service or better to each community by continuing to conduct personal-use and commercial timber sales and wildfire protection services."

Keech has a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management/Forestry from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He replaces acting Fairbanks/Delta Area Forester Paul Maki, who will return to retirement status, effective immediately.

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